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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A catheter device comprising: comprising
an elongated body member having a distal portion; and
a deflection mechanism that extends within the elongated body and is operably coupled to
the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of
the elongated body member:member, wherein the catheter device further includes:
a guide member;
a guiding mechanism coupled to the elongated body member and configured so as to
guide the guide member; and
wherein the guiding mechanism includes an exit portion from which the guide member
exits when the guide member is being deployed from the guiding mechanism, where the exit
portion is disposed with respect to the distal portion so the distal portion deflects from and with
respect to the guide member, when the guide member is in deployed condition.

Claims 2-8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Original) The catheter device of claim 1, wherein the guiding mechanism
comprises an artifact on the external surface of the elongated body member and extending axially
along the elongated body member, where the artifact and the guide member are configured and
arranged so the guide member is moveably retained by the artifact and so as to allow for
deployment of the guide member.

Claims 10-14. (Cancelled)

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Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A catheter device comprising: comprising
an elongated body member having a distal portion; portion and
a deflection mechanism that extends within the elongated body and is operably coupled to
the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of
the elongated body member:member, wherein the catheter device further includes:
a guide member;
a guiding mechanism coupled to the elongated body member and configured so as to
guide the guide member;
an ablation device being disposed in the distal portion, the ablation device being
configured and arranged to ablate tissues proximal the ablation device;
wherein the guiding mechanism includes an exit portion from which the guide member
exits when the guide member is being deployed from the guiding mechanism;
wherein the exit portion is disposed with respect to the distal portion so the distal portion
deflects from and with respect to the guide member, when the guide member is in deployed
condition; and
wherein the exit portion is configured and arranged so that the distal portion when in a
deflected condition is rotatable about the guide member, when the guide member is in a deployed
condition.

Claims 16-25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A method for ablating tissue in particular atrial tissue,
comprising the steps of:
providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, a
deflection mechanism that extends within the deflection catheter device and operably coupled to
the deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion
and a guide member;

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_____ deploying the guide member so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through an opening in, and disposed in, a chamber, vessel or vein of a body; and

_____ deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member using the deflection mechanism.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of: (s)

_____ contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and

_____ actuating the ablation device.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of: step (s)

_____ rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and

_____ wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 28, further comprising the steps(s) of: step (s) of:

_____ de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and

_____ activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 27, claim 28, further comprising the step(s) of: step (s)

_____ rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and

_____ maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

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Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 30, ~~claims~~ further comprising the step(s) of: step(s)

re-configuring the deflectable distal portion during said rotating so as to maintain at least a part of the distal portion in contact with the tissues.

Claims 32-36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) A method for ablating tissue in particular atrial tissue, comprising the steps of:

providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member;

localizing an end of the deflectable distal portion with respect to an opening in a chamber, vessel or vein of a mammalian body;

deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the chamber, vessel or vein of the mammalian body;

deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member;

contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within said at least a ~~the~~ part;

and actuating the ablation device.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 37, further comprising the step(s) of: step(s)-of:

rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and

wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

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Claim 39. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 38, further comprising the step(s) of: ~~step(s) of:~~

_____ de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
_____ activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 37, claim 38, further comprising the step(s) of: ~~step(s) of:~~

_____ rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
_____ maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claim 41. (Currently amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 41, claim 38, further comprising the step(s) of: ~~step(s)~~

_____ re-configuring the deflectable distal portion during said rotating so as to maintain at least a part of the distal portion in contact with the tissues.

Claims 42-45. (Cancelled)

Claim 46. (Currently Amended) A method for treating arrhythmias, comprising the step(s) of: ~~steps~~

_____ providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion and a guide member;
_____ deploying the guide member so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through an opening in, and disposed in, a vein of a mammalian body;
_____ deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member.

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Claim 47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step(s) of: step (s) of:

_____ contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and
_____ actuating the ablation device.

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) The tissue of claim 47, further comprising the step(s) of: step (s)

_____ rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
_____ wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step(s) of: step (s)

_____ de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
_____ activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claims 50-56. (Cancelled)

Claim 57. (Currently Amended) A method for treating arrhythmias, comprising the step(s) of: steps of:

_____ providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member;
_____ localizing an end of the deflectable distal portion within the left atrium of a mammalian body and with respect to an opening in a vein;
_____ deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the vein;
_____ deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member;

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_____ contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and
_____ actuating the ablation device.

Claim 58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, further comprising the step(s) of: step(s) of:

_____ rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
_____ wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step(s) of: step(s)

_____ de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
_____ activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of step(s) of: maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claims 61-64. (Cancelled)

Claim 65. (Currently Amended) A method for treating left atrial arrhythmia in a left atrium of a mammalian body; comprising the steps of:

_____ providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member;
_____ introducing a portion of the catheter device including the deflectable distal portion into the left atrium; atrium;

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_____ positioning an end of the deflectable distal portion with respect to an a pulmonary vein extending from the left atrium;

_____ deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the pulmonary vein;

_____ deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member;

_____ contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and

_____ actuating the ablation device.

Claim 66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, further comprising the step(s) of: step (s)

_____ rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and

_____ wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 66, further comprising the step(s) of: step (s)

_____ de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and

_____ activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 66, further comprising the step of step (s) of: maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claims 69-72. (Cancelled)

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Claim 73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

_____ monitoring electrical conduction signals along a pulmonary vein; and
_____ identifying an origin of atrial arrhythmias as being located in the pulmonary vein based upon the monitored conduction signals.

Claim 74. (New) The catheter device of claim 1, wherein the guiding mechanism comprises a channel within the elongated body member and the exit portion comprises a through aperture in a side of the elongated body member that is in communication with the channel, where the guide member is deployed from the through aperture.

Claim 75. (New) The catheter device of claim 15, wherein the guiding mechanism comprises a channel within the elongated body member and the exit portion comprises a through aperture in a side of the elongated body member that is in communication with the channel, where the guide member is deployed from the through aperture.

Claim 76. (New) The tissue ablating method of claim 26, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member and a guiding mechanism, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

Claim 77. (New) The tissue ablating method of claim 37, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

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Claim 78. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member and a guiding mechanism, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

Claim 79. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

Claim 80. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.